

What is claimed is:

1. A sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising:
 - 2 a support structure;
 - 4 a molded plastic connector housing overmolded about at least a portion of the support structure at an interface area between the support structure and the connector housing; and
 - 6 a compliant layer deposited between the support structure and the overmolded connector housing over at least a portion of said interface area to fill and seal the portion of the interface area when the molded plastic housing cures.
- 2 The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliant layer comprises a conformal film coated on the support structure in said at least a portion of said interface area before the housing is overmolded on the support structure.
- 2 The electrical connector assembly of claim 2 wherein said conformal film comprises a silicone adhesive.
- 2 The electrical connector assembly of claim 2 wherein said conformal film comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.
- 2 The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliant layer comprises a preformed component.
- 2 The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said interface area comprises a tongue-and-groove structure.
- 2 The electrical connector assembly of claim 6 wherein said interface area comprises a tongue on the support structure with the connector housing overmolded thereabout.
- 2 The electrical connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said compliant layer is deposited on said tongue prior to said connector housing being overmolded thereabout.

2 9. The electrical connector assembly of claim 8 wherein said tongue
comprises a peripheral flange about a passage in the support structure in which the connector
housing is molded.

2 10. The electrical connector assembly of claim 1 wherein said support
structure comprises a two-part structure including a base part and a cover part forming an
interior cavity therebetween, the cover part including a connector-receiving passage having
4 an upstanding peripheral flange thereabout, the connector housing being overmolded about
the peripheral flange and in the passage.

2 11. The electrical connector assembly of claim 10 wherein said compliant
layer is deposited about said peripheral flange.

2 12. A sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising:
a support structure in the form of a casing having an interior cavity, a
connector-receiving passage communicating with the cavity and an upstanding flange about
4 the passage:
a molded plastic connector housing overmolded about the peripheral flange
6 and in the passage; and
a compliant layer deposited about the peripheral flange of the support
8 structure and about which the connector housing is overmolded to fill and seal any gap
therebetween when the molded housing cures.

2 13. The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said compliant
layer comprises a conformal film coated on the peripheral flange before the connector
housing is overmolded thereabout.

2 14. The electrical connector assembly of claim 13 wherein said conformal
film comprises a silicone adhesive.

2 15. The electrical connector assembly of claim 13 wherein said conformal
film comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

2 16. The electrical connector assembly of claim 12 wherein said compliant layer comprises a preformed component.

2 17. A sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising:
2 a first, rigid connector component;
4 a second, molded plastic connector component overmolded about at least a portion of the first connector component at an interface area therebetween; and
6 a compliant layer deposited between the connector components over at least a portion of said interface area to fill and seal the portion of the interface area when the molded plastic component cures.

2 18. The electrical connector assembly of claim 17 wherein said compliant layer comprises a conformal film coated on the first connector component in said at least a portion of said interface area before the second connector component is overmolded on the
4 first connector component.

2 19. The electrical connector assembly of claim 18 wherein said conformal film comprises a silicone adhesive.

2 20. The electrical connector assembly of claim 18 wherein said conformal film comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

2 21. The electrical connector assembly of claim 17 wherein said compliant layer comprises a preformed component.

2 22. A method of fabricating a sealed electrical connector assembly, comprising the steps of:
4 providing a support structure;
6 depositing a compliant layer on the support structure in an interface area; and overmolding a molded plastic connector housing about at least a portion of the support structure including said interface area whereby said compliant layer fills and seals the interface area when the molded plastic housing cures.

2 23. The method of claim 22 including the step of providing said compliant layer as a conformal film coated on the interface area of the support structure before the housing is overmolded on the support structure.

2 24. The method of claim 23 including providing said conformal film of silicone adhesive material.

2 25. The method of claim 23 including providing said conformal film of thermoplastic elastomer material.